

HELIUM GAS IS SOLUTION BLIMP PROBLEM, EXPERT

Aircraft Disasters Could Be Prevented by Use of Improved Gas as Contentant

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—The recurrence of disasters to hydrogen-inflated airships has turned public attention to the possible development of helium—a noninflammable gas just discovered during the world war and regarded by many exponents of air navigation as the one solution of the lighter-than-air craft problem.

Government and other experts believe that the use of helium would have prevented the terrible disasters of late years, such as that of the *Rome* and the *C-2*. While only one tiny, an army blimp, thus far has been filled with helium, quantity production of this rare gas now is begun.

Satisfactory operation, on a laboratory scale, of a simplified and much cheaper method of recovering helium from natural gas is reported through the American Chemical Society by H. Foster Bain, director of the United States Bureau of Mines. In a test made within the last month at the hydrogen laboratory in the Interior Department Building, helium was recovered in one operation in sufficient purity to use in balloons and dirigibles.

Members of the bureau say the cost of producing helium has been increased to permit of widespread use.

One man has 82 per cent of the lifting capacity of hydrogen, can be easily stored does not rapidly deteriorate, does not readily leak from a gas bag and has all the advantages of hydrogen without the great danger involved.

The government now has stored approximately 2,000,000 cubic feet of helium and is producing at the rate of 1,000 cubic feet daily at its commercial production plant at Fort Worth, Texas, the only helium plant in the world. As soon as this plant has started running at full capacity, it is expected the government will be able to produce helium at the cost of ten cents a cubic foot.

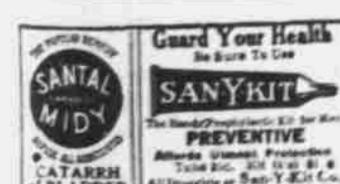
Helium occurs on earth only in certain natural gases, much of which in the country were used for illuminating and power generating purposes; and discarding helium among other "impurities." Such gases occur also in Italy and Canada, but no helium is being recovered in those countries. Representative Julius Kahn of California has introduced a bill in Congress to support a definite program for helium recovery, upon which is expected from the next session of that body.

Under the present system of helium extraction, followed in Fort Worth, 44 per cent return of helium is realized from the natural gas. This 44 per cent must be put through a purifying process before it can be used. By the new method, only one process of extraction is necessary, after which the gas is supplied directly to the aircraft.

NELSON'S FLAGSHIP
MAY TRAVEL BY LAND

LONDON, Nov. 24.—An effort is being made in England to raise £10,000 for the preservation of the Nelson's flagship in the battle of Trafalgar. The famous vessel is at present at Portsmouth in a very bad state of repair. So far has she deteriorated that, if it is decided to bring her to London, she will have to come overland; she could not undergo the journey by water.

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PUNISH GRAFT BY DEATH IN THE LAND OF SOVIET

State Employees so Flagrant in Thefts That Drastic Measures Resorted to

MOSCOW, Nov. 22.—A strenuous campaign against graft among state employees, inaugurated some time ago by the Soviet government, has brought to trial in various parts of the country hundreds of individuals, some of whom already have been convicted and put to death for their treachery.

At Nizhni Novgorod eight men accused of swindling the government in connection with the construction of an electrical plant along the Volga were sentenced to death while 21 others tried simultaneously were sent to prison for varying terms of years.

In connection with the case of grain tax evasion, three men in the Moscow district charged with making false entries by which the government was deprived of big quantities of grain were sentenced to pay the supreme price while 42 of the same group were acquitted.

AMERICAN SCHOOL TEACHER RELEASED FROM RUSS PRISON

RIGA, Nov. 24.—Mrs. Eddie Parker Bennett, formerly a school teacher of Semirechye, has just been released from prison in Riga, according to wire reaching Riga after being arrested by agents of Cheka and detained three days. She was taken from a hotel room at 1 a.m. by police agents refused to say why she was arrested. Later she was questioned by political commissioners. Mrs. Bennett had been in Riga over a year with her husband, Ray Bennett, a hydraulic engineer in the employ of the Soviet government, admitted a member of the Communist party.



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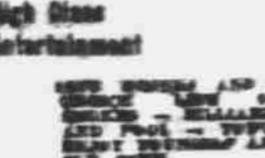
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